

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 18257 130856Z  
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 /113 W  
----- 106980 /17

P 130827Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4161

UNCLAS TOKYO 18257

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS IEA CAPITALS, EXCEPT TOKYO

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: ENRG OPEC JA  
SUBJ: OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE--COMMENTS BY JAPAN'S ENERGY AGENCY  
CHIEF

1. SUMMARY. ENERGY AGENCY CHIEF HASHIMOTO SAID THAT MOST  
IMPORTANT QUESTION CONCERNING PRICE INCREASE IS NOT HOW MUCH  
IT WILL BE, BUT WHETHER ANY INCREASE IS JUSTIFIED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW DECEMBER 13 IN THE VERNACULAR  
TRADE DAILY NIHON KOGYO, TOSHIKAZU HASHIMOTO, DIRECTOR OF  
MITI'S AGENCY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY SAID THAT  
ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS ONE HEARS THESE DAYS ABOUT  
THE PRICE INCREASE FOR OIL FOCUS ON WHAT THE RANGE OF  
INCREASES MIGHT BE, IT WOULD BE MORE REASONABLE FOR OPEC  
TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO RAISE PRICES OR NOT. AN INCREASE  
IN THE OIL PRICE WHICH COULD NOT BE ABSORBED BY THE CON-  
SUMING COUNTRIES WOULD REDOUND TO THE DETRIMENT OF OPEC  
ITSELF, PARTICULARLY IN A TIME OF WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC  
RECESSION. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS NO TIGHT OIL MARKET  
IN THE WORLD TODAY, AS IS BEING REPORTED, POINTING OUT  
THAT AT THE TIME OF THE 1973 OIL CRISIS, OPEC PRODUCTION  
WAS 35 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY, BUT THAT CURRENT  
PRODUCTION IS ONLY AT 29.5 MBPD. HE SAID THAT THE  
DECISION AS TO WHETHER TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION SHOULD  
BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF WHAT LEVEL IS COMMERCIALY PROFITABLE.  
HODGSON

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED IEA CAPITALS.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, PRICES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TOKYO18257  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760458-0874  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 61  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** schwenja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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04 MAY 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE--COMMENTS BY JAPAN'S ENERGY AGENCY CHIEF  
**TAGS:** ENRG, JA, OPEC, (HASHIMOTO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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